

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Carrier Current Systems, including)	ET Docket No. 03-104
Broadband over Power Line Systems)	
)	ET Docket No. 04-37
Amendment of Part 15 regarding new)	
requirements and measurement)	
guidelines for Access Broadband over)	
Power Lines Systems)	

COMMENTS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

Pursuant to Section 1.415 of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) Rules, the American Public Power Association (“APPA”) hereby submits its comments in response to the Commission’s Public Notice in the above-referenced proceeding.¹ The APPA supports the United Telecom Council (“UTC”) to serve as the Access BPL database manager. UTC is well-qualified and uniquely positioned to manage the database. Therefore, the FCC should recognize UTC as the Access BPL database manager, which would promote the timely establishment and continued effective management of the Access BPL database.

¹ *OET Seeks Comment on Proposal by United Telecom Council to Serve as Database Manager for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems*, ET Docket No. 04-37 Public Notice, 2005 WL 1364529 (“Public Notice”).

Introduction

APPA is a national service organization that represents the interests of more than 2,000 publicly-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities located in all states except Hawaii. Currently, approximately three-fourths of APPA's members serve communities with less than 10,000 residents. Public power systems operated by municipalities, counties, authorities, states and public utility districts provide electricity to more than 43 million Americans. In addition to providing electricity, an increasing number of APPA's members also provide broadband service. Today, over 600 public power systems now provide some kind of advanced communications service, whether for internal or external purposes. This is a ten-fold increase since Congress enacted the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the number of public power systems providing or planning to provide services continues to increase.

Many of APPA's members have deployed BPL systems on a commercial or trial basis. Others are considering similar deployments. APPA supports the deployment of BPL, and actually helped fund the deployment by the City of Manassas, Virginia, which became the first commercial deployment in the country. As such, APPA has a direct and significant interest in this proceeding and is pleased to offer its comments on the issue raised in the Public Notice.

I. UTC is qualified to serve as the Access BPL Database Manager.

APPA believes that the UTC is qualified to serve as the Access BPL database manager. UTC has managed a similar database used to coordinate power line carrier systems with Federal government operations for decades. Furthermore, it has designed a BPL database that would be easy to use for BPL operators and would provide effective public notice to facilitate the resolution of any potential harmful interference from local BPL operations. Therefore, FCC recognition of UTC as the database manager will speed the establishment of the database and provide for its continued effective management.

II. UTC is well-positioned to serve as the Access BPL database manager.

UTC is also well-positioned to serve as the Access BPL database manager. It represents the telecommunications and information technology interests of all types of utilities, including municipal utilities. Through the UPLC, which represents the BPL industry, UTC also knows the latest developments and companies that are deploying in the U.S. It has worked closely with the FCC and NTIA on a variety of matters including BPL, and it is engaged with organizations representing the interests of licensed radio users in the HF band. In fact, many of UTC utility members hold licenses to operate in the HF band. As such, UTC is uniquely positioned to serve as the Access BPL database manager.

The FCC has declined to require that the database manager be an independent third party with no relationship to the BPL or utility industry. “The responsibilities and duties of the database manager are to maintain complete, accurate and timely records of FCC-mandated information,” and it is not required to “be involved in, monitor, or manage the interference resolution process.”² APPA agrees with the FCC and fully expects that UTC’s relationship with the utility and BPL industry would promote its ability to carry out its administrative responsibilities as the database manager.

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, APPA is pleased to provide its comments supporting UTC to serve as the Access BPL database manager.

Respectfully submitted,

American Public Power Association
2301 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

By: Desmarie Waterhouse, Government
Relations Representative

Additional contact: Joe Nipper, Senior
Vice President, Government Relations

² *Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line Systems*, Report and Order, ET Docket No. 04-37, 19 F.C.C.R. 21,265 at ¶84 (“*Report and Order*”).